

## **Appendix C: Pulling Materials**

Tips for Pulling Pepperweed .....	59
Photo Release Form .....	60

# Tips for Pulling Pepperweed

## Recommended Equipment:

- Work or Garden Gloves, \_\_\_ Hat \_\_\_ Water \_\_\_ Camera with charged batteries
- **Contractor Garbage Bags (3 mil. 42 Gallon bags) Do not use flimsy, small bags. You risk spreading pepperweed. \_\_\_ Photo release forms if you have a group pulling.**

**Pull between June and August.** By June Pepperweed will be tall enough to pull. After August Pepperweed goes to seed and we don't want to make the problem worse by spreading mature seeds around the landscape.

- **Pull slowly and smoothly from the base of the plant.** This prevents stems from breaking and leaving lots of root in the ground. It can help to bunch all the stems of a large plant together and pull all at once.
- **Remove as much root as possible.** This will deplete pepperweed's nutrient and energy store, significantly reducing its ability to resprout this year or next. Roots can reach up to 2 feet underground. Even though we probably can't get it all out, the more we remove the better.
- **Disturb the soil as little as possible.** Keep the native plant community intact so they can take over the empty space. Disturbed soil is an invitation for invasive plants to move in!
- **Pull out the rosettes, too.** Learn to identify all stages of pepperweed growth and remove every pepperweed plant you see.
- **Repull and double check.** Deal a double blow a few weeks later in the summer by pulling out any stragglers or resprouting stems. Pull the same site next summer, too. Research in New England shows that two summers with two pulls each significantly reduces or even eliminates pepperweed at a site (Orth, *et al.*, 2006).

## Safe Pepperweed Disposal Methods

If fresh pepperweed stems are left on the soil, they can re-root and re-sprout!

Use one of these techniques and say goodbye to pepperweed forever.

- **Dispose to city dumpsters where you know the city will transfer the pepperweed to an incinerator.**
- **Dry pepperweed for 5-7 days in the sun or open air** (ex: driveway or parking lot). Now the stems are good and dead and can be burned or composted. (Orth, *et al* 2006)
- **One month in a garbage bag.** You can put the Pepperweed in a thick garbage bag and leave it to rot for at least 1 month. The Pepperweed will be dead when it is slimy or partially decomposed. (Perron, 2008)

## References

Perron, C. (2008). Best Management Practices for Roadside Invasive Plants. New Hampshire Department of Transportation. <http://www.nh.gov/dot/bureaus/environment/documents.htm>

Orth, J. F., Gammon, M., Abdul-Basir, F., Stevenson, R. D., Tsirelson, D., Ebersole, J., et al. (2006). Natural history, distribution, and management of *Lepidium latifolium* (brassicaceae) in New England. *Rhodora*, 108(934), 103-118.

## Photo Release Form

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Group \_\_\_\_\_

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